

Chester House Hotel
Chester, Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-61

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14. CHEST

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Chester House Hotel
Chester, Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: Fleming Brothers

Date of Erection: Brick part 1812; frame section and
rear brick section of later date

Architect:

Builder: Zephaniah Drake

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Three

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

Chester village was surveyed in 1714 and settled by emigrants from Long Island. The village was later known as Black Horn, so called because it was laid out in lots by General Horn. Horn had purchased land from Zephaniah Drake. It was Drake who built the original brick section in 1812 for a public house. He was the proprietor of a line of stage coaches. In 1854 William Rankin, who came from Deekertown, now Sussex, bought and enlarged the brick hotel and established a classical school that was a very

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flourishing one until it was removed to Mendham in 1862. Later it was changed back into a hotel.

Bibliography:

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Embracing Upwards on Two Centuries 1710-
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Publishing Company, 1914

History of Morris County, New Jersey with
Illustrations and Biographical Sketches
of Prominent Citizens and Pioneers New
York, W. W. Munsell and Company, 1882

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11/16/37